

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for billing for telephone services, said method comprising:

receiving a request to originate a billed transaction for a caller from an origin device;

authenticating an identity of a callee answering a call originated by said origin device; and

responsive to receiving an acceptance of said call by said callee from a destination device, billing an account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee to complete said billed transaction, such that said origin device is enabled to initiate said billed transaction charged to said callee.

2. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept said billed transaction.

3. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept a service offered in association with said billed transaction.

4. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

prompting said callee to accept said call and incur a charge indicated in said billed transaction; and

only completing said billed transaction if said callee accepts said call.

5. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

responsive to completing said billed transaction, providing a service to said callee via said call.

6. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

authenticating an identity of said utilizing said origin device; and

providing said callee with said identity of said caller.

7. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein authenticating an identity of said callee further comprises:

authenticating an identity of said callee according to a voice utterance by said callee.

8. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request further comprises:

receiving a dialed digit request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

9. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request further comprises:

receiving a voice directed request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

10. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request further comprises:

receiving a destination line number that is specified to originate a billed transaction for said caller.

11. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, wherein receiving a request further comprises:

accessing a profile for said caller; and

receiving a profile specified request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

12. The method for billing for telephone services according to claim 1, further comprising:

prompting a caller at said origin device to select an account for crediting an amount of said billed transaction.

13. A system for billing for telephone services, said system comprising:

a billing controller communicatively connected to a telephone network;

means for receiving a request to originate a billed transaction for a caller at said billing controller from an origin device;

means for authenticating an identity of a callee answering a call originated by said origin device; and

means responsive to receiving an acceptance of said call by said callee from a destination device, for billing an account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee to complete said billed transaction initiated by said origin device.

14. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept said billed transaction.

15. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept a service offered in association with said billed transaction.

16. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for prompting said callee to accept said call and incur a charge indicated in said billed transaction; and

means for only completing said billed transaction if said callee accepts said call.

17. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means responsive to completing said billed transaction, for providing a service to said callee via said call.

18. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for authenticating an identity of said utilizing said origin device; and

means for providing said callee with said identity of said caller.

19. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, wherein said means for authenticating an identity of said callee further comprises:

means for authenticating an identity of said callee according to a voice utterance by said callee.

20. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, wherein said means for receiving a request further comprises:

means for receiving a dialed digit request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

21. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, wherein said means for receiving a request further comprises:

means for receiving a voice directed request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

22. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, wherein said means for receiving a request further comprises:

means for receiving a destination line number that is specified to originate a billed transaction for said caller.

23. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, wherein said means for receiving a request further comprises:

means for accessing a profile for said caller; and

means for receiving a profile specified request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

24. The system for billing for telephone services according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for prompting a caller at said origin device to select an account for crediting an amount of said billed transaction.

25. A computer program product for billing for telephone services, said computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for enabling receipt of a request to originate a billed transaction for a caller from an origin device;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating an identity of a callee answering a call originated by said origin device; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for billing an account accessed by said authenticated identity of said callee to complete said billed transaction initiated by said origin device.

26. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept said billed transaction.

27. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only completing said billed transaction if said callee is authorized to accept a service offered in association with said billed transaction.

28. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for prompting said callee to accept said call and incur a charge indicated in said billed transaction; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for only completing said billed transaction if said callee accepts said call.

29. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, responsive to completing said billed transaction, for providing a service to said callee via said call.

30. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating an identity of said utilizing said origin device; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for providing said callee with said identity of said caller.

31. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating an identity of said callee further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for authenticating an identity of said callee according to a voice utterance by said callee.

32. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a dialed digit request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

33. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a voice directed request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

34. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a destination line number that is specified to originate a billed transaction for said caller.

35. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, wherein said means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for accessing a profile for said caller; and

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a profile specified request to originate a billed transaction for said caller at said origin device.

36. The computer program product for billing for telephone services according to claim 25, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for prompting a caller at said origin device to select an account for crediting an amount of said billed transaction.

37. A method for controlling a billed transaction, comprising:

transferring a call to a destination device with a billed transaction request initiated by a caller placing said call;

authenticating an identity of a callee answering said call at said destination device; and

executing said billed transaction according to a billing plan for said authenticated callee identity.

38. The method for controlling a billed transaction according to claim 37, further comprising:

only executing said billed transaction responsive to an authorization by said callee.

39. A method for controlling callee billing, comprising:

receiving a call at a destination device with a billed transaction request initiated by a caller placing said call; and

responsive to an acceptance of said billed transaction by a callee answering said call at said destination device, transferring an authorization to charge a billing plan according to an authenticated identity of said callee.

10/2/01 10:00:00